

Application No. 10/567,534

CLAIMSLISTING OF CLAIMS

1. A system for automatically matching patients to clinical trials comprising:
a database component operative to maintain:
 one or more hospital patient database components and their one or
 more hospital databases and their corresponding plurality of patient names and
 their medical records, wherein said hospital patient database components are in
 communication with one or more medical practice database components and
 their corresponding plurality of specialties and their corresponding plurality of
 patient names and their medical records,
 a clinical studies database component and its corresponding plurality of
 clinical studies;
a communications component to receive changes to said database
component; and
a processor programmed to:
 periodically match compatible patients and clinical studies ~~without reliance on~~
~~calculation of probability-based inferences of matching,~~ and generate reports to
 matched medical practices in said medical practice database component having
 one or more patients matched to at least one clinical study.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:
 said database component identifies patient names associated with each medical
 practice in said medical practice database component; and
 said processor generates reports to medical practices having identified patients, said
 reports including a listing of prospective patients for at least one clinical trial.
3. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
 a searching component for searching said clinical studies database component, and
 said one or more hospital patient database components,
 wherein said communications component is adaptable to receive searching order
 instructions.
4. The system according to claim 3, wherein:
 said processor is programmed with a rule-based system to vary search parameter
 priority, based on the type of data requested, wherein said search parameter priority is
 set to search free text keywords or a phrase in a specified order.
5. The system according to claim 4, wherein:
 Said search parameter priority is set to ~~search free text keywords or a phrase~~
perform text analysis last.
6. The system according to claim 1 wherein said processor is further programmed to
 convert database information from incompatible operating systems to the operating
 system of the processor.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said clinical studies database contains clinical trials selected from the group consisting of clinical drug and clinical device trials.
8. A computerized method for matching patients to clinical medical studies comprising:
 - identifying a group of patients in a hospital database;
 - identifying at least one clinical study;
 - maintaining a database identifying each said patient in said hospital database and each said clinical study; and
 - comparing said group of patients in said hospital database to said clinical studies and matching one or more patients in a hospital database to one or more clinical trials, ~~without reliance on calculation of probability-based inferences of matching utilizing a computer to perform said comparison.~~
9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
 - maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles associated with a corresponding medical practice; and
 - notifying a medical practice when at least one of said patient profiles matches the requirements of said clinical studies.
10. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of maintaining a database further comprises converting data from an incompatible operating system to the operating system of the processor.